



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

NEWS

SPECIAL EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2020

GOING FOR GOLD

Rowing Club
medal success

CHESHIRE DEBATE CUP WINNERS

Cambridge Schools
Debating Competition

UK MATHS CHALLENGE

YEAR 8
Cheshire Athletics
Champions

WE WILL ROCK YOU!
SHOWSTOPPING
SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Global
partnerships
COLOMBIA
Cultural
trip

YEAR 7 GIRLS
FOOTBALL TEAM
CROWNED CHESHIRE
CHAMPIONS

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

*'Our diverse
planet'*

ARTIST OF
THE MONTH
Study trip to
Tate Liverpool

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS

FIRST TECH CHALLENGE
NORTHWEST AWARD WINNERS
'All about robots'



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WELCOME



“ Welcome to this special 2020 edition of our QPHS News which we hope will give you a flavour of life here at Queen’s Park High School and equally a sense of what a momentous year it has been for us too!

Looking back to January, 2020 began on real high as the school finally gained the recognition it deserved as it was re-designated

as a ‘Good’ school by Ofsted. This followed five years of hard work to improve all aspects of school life for our students and acknowledging our high expectations for all. We continue to be ambitious for the future of the school as we strive to become ‘outstanding’ in the future.

By March, school became quite a different place as we were faced with school closures due to Covid-19. As we closed our doors to the majority of our students, emotions ran high for us all, sometimes you don’t always realise what you have got until it is taken away from you! For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, this was a particularly difficult point in time, having been denied the opportunity to sit their exams this summer and to be able to savour what could potentially have been their last few weeks in school. For me, school closure coupled with the move to our virtual school for the remainder of the academic year, left me feeling incredibly proud of our whole school community. In difficult times, our school pulls together with empathy and care, recognising that the journey ahead for each of us had the potential to be quite different and quite difficult. As our model of ‘live learning’ grew through the use of Microsoft Teams, what struck me more than anything was the strength and power of the relationships between our staff, students and parents, which became more and more evident throughout this period. Our community really came together to work through the challenges.

The icing on the cake for us as a school came this summer with our examination results at both GSCE and A Level. Our students surpassed their targets through their hard work and determination coupled with the support and expertise of their teachers, to achieve our best results as a school to date. We always knew this was going to be a special year for us and I feel very proud of our students and their achievements. We are thrilled to see everyone back to school this September – our heart has been restored!

I hope that this bumper edition of the newsletter can add a smile to your day as once again we showcase the diversity of school life, the talents of our young people and give a little reminder of all the wonderful ways in which our students have enriched Queen’s Park during 2020 so far.

We very much hope that we are able to welcome you to the school in 2021! ”

Miss L Watterson, HEADTEACHER



INDIA EXPEDITION

Put up ‘Uttarakhand’ if you’re excited?

An exciting opportunity for our Year 9 and 10 students was launched this term and Miss Hunter is still buzzing about it because an amazing 20 adventure seekers have already signed up!

On 27th January Chris Davies from World Challenge came into school to introduce a chance of a life time expedition to students during their morning assembly.

This incredible and empowering experience will enable students to travel to Uttarakhand in India where they will become inspired leaders, true-life learners and global citizens as they trek through the jungle, help to build a school in a small village and have the opportunity to visit one of the World Wonders, the Taj Mahal.

This is a golden opportunity for students to discover their place in the world and get some cultural capital, soaking up the way of life, food and learning the ways of language and money in India.

Watch this space for fundraising events coming soon.



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL IS A “GOOD” SCHOOL



“Leaders and staff have high expectations of all pupils”

“Pupils take part in many activities, which help to develop their confidence and resilience”

Ofsted 2020



During the first week of the Spring Term Queen's Park High School had an Ofsted inspection and we are delighted to be able to share the report with the final outcome of what was the first full inspection as a new academy since our conversion back in 2017.

We are extremely proud to announce that the overall judgement is that we are now officially rated as a GOOD school. Whilst we felt very strongly that this was the case, this judgement brings welcome recognition and validation of all the hard work which has taken place across the school over recent years and is in line with our own self-evaluation of our current strengths and areas for further development.

We are particularly proud of the following key findings which very much reflect the essence of our school:

- Leaders and staff have high expectations of all pupils
- Pupils enjoy coming to school
- The atmosphere in the school is calm and welcoming
- Relationships between staff and pupils are positive and respectful
- Sixth Form students are excellent role models for younger students
- Pupils take part in many activities, which help to develop their confidence and resilience
- Behaviour is good
- Leaders want pupils to become well-rounded individuals who understand the wider world
- The headteacher and governors are ambitious for all pupils

The inspectors recognised the improvements which have been made in relation to the quality of teaching and learning and our curriculum across the school. They stated that *most pupils achieve well in a wide range of subjects at the end of key stage 4*.

Whilst inspectors were complimentary about the Sixth Form overall, the ‘sixth form provision’ judgement was essentially limited by the need for another set of improved examination results. The inspectors visited a number of

Year 12 lessons and expressed confidence in the actions which have been taken by leaders to date around the curriculum and also the quality of the education evident. As a school, we know that our sixth form outcomes will continue to improve over the next 18 months so feel certain that we will equally be able to judge this area to

“ We are even more ambitious for the future now. . . I feel incredibly proud of everything that we have achieved to date as a school community and would just like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous: to my amazing team of staff for all their hard work, dedication and commitment; to our wonderful students for their endless talents, creativity and individuality and finally to all the parents/carers for their unwavering support, belief and trust in both myself and the school as a whole. This is our time to shine and be seen as the school of choice in our locality and this judgement marks the first stage of that journey. ”

Miss Watterson, Headteacher

be ‘Good’ in the near future.





GCSE RESULTS 2020

Outperforming Expectations

Once again, Queen's Park High School students have done themselves and us, as a community, proud. Despite the turbulent year they have endured, we always knew that this special year group were destined to achieve great things and their GCSE results have shown this. They have achieved both some spectacular individual successes as well as sustaining (and indeed exceeding) the pattern of improvement the school has seen over the past few years.

This year, we are particularly thrilled to see our higher ability students outperform expectations with 32% of all grades awarded being grades 9-7 (old A*/A) including 9% of these at Grade 9.

Particular mention needs to be given to the following students who have not only achieved outstanding academic results but have also contributed above and beyond to the wider life of the school through their particular embodiment of the school's principles and ethos:

- **Rory Jones** – 9 grade 9s and 1 grade 8
- **Eirinn McGuire** - 8 grade 9s and 2 grade 8s
- **Tyler Gordon** - 8 grade 9s and 1 grade 8
- **Beth Henderson-Palmer** – 5 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s and 2 grade 7s
- **Kiara Parlevliet** – 4 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and 2 grade 7s
- **Max Wilson** – 3 grade 9s, 5 grade 8s and 2 grade 7s

Other outstanding performances with grades 9-6 overall come from: Josh Williamson, Finlay Jaworski, Juliette Gilchrist, Sophia Souna, Rhea Yalarakis, Iestyn Burke, James Fawcett, Ceri Raynor, Joe Bamber, Joseph Smith and Josh Halewood.

“ This is a special day for us here at Queen's Park. I feel incredibly proud of our Year 11 students, a cohort for whom we have always had high expectations, which they have lived up to admirably. Their commitment, maturity and determination to succeed were all recognised within our Ofsted inspection back in January and they have maintained these values throughout lockdown, with many of them continuing their studies, even engaging with virtual A Level lessons.

For each and every student, today is about celebrating their own personal success and determining their next steps in their academic journey, whatever that may be. It has been a privilege for us as staff to be able to support and help shape their futures.

We pride ourselves at Queen's Park for our family feel, the fact that all our students are known and nurtured and when looking through the results this year we were thrilled to be able to pick out so many success stories for students who have had to overcome significant personal barriers throughout their educational journey and for those who have made significant progress both academically and personally as a consequence. ”

Miss Lyndsay Watterson, Headteacher





DEFINING FUTURES

Triumphant Year for Sixth Formers

Students and staff at Queen's Park High School are celebrating some outstanding A Level results for students who have dealt with a difficult year with positivity and aplomb, always keeping the values at the fore of all they have done. Building on the successes of last year, performance has continued to improve across all subject areas with students achieving some outstanding results both individually and across subject areas. This year has seen a huge increase in the percentage of A* and A grades with 23% of all A level grades being at this level.

There are countless examples of individual success to celebrate but a special mention must be given to the following students:

Olivia Halewood with 3 A*'s and 1 A who moves on to study Natural Sciences at The University of Lancaster; Jude Johnson and Oscar Towgin each with 1A* and 2As who go off to study at The Guildhall School of Music and pursue an apprenticeship with UBS Bank in Finance respectively; Charlotte Carswell with 2As and a C who moves onto Cardiff University to study Media and Communication; Harry Smith with 1A and 2Bs who will study History at the University of Newcastle. We also wish Reuben Wardle well as he takes his excellent grades of A*, B C to Denmark where he is now training with the England Handball team.

Looking beyond the headline grades, there are numerous stories of students who have overcome personal challenges to achieve the grades required to either

access higher education, take up apprenticeships or successfully move into employment. We are equally proud of the students who joined us from other schools for the Sixth Form, having been offered a place here based on individual merit and potential, and who have then gone on to exceed their own targets and expectations. These students will be leaving Queen's Park High School to achieve their ambition of studying at University, further emphasising the holistic approach that the school adopts towards its young people.

The school looks forward to hearing about all our students' future successes.

“ I feel very proud of this ‘small but beautifully formed’ cohort of 6th Form students who have been such wonderful ambassadors for the school both within and beyond the classroom. Their results today not only enable us to celebrate the rewards of their hard work but also the individual qualities of the talented young people that they have become. Their contribution to school life has been immense, they have orchestrated charity events, staff versus student competitions, represented the school in rowing events, school productions and willingly given up their time to support their peers and some of our younger students alike.

Thank you for being the amazing, resilient young people that you are, we know you will all go far in life! In these unprecedented times, seize your futures with both hands and may the memories and friendships that you have made here at Queen's Park remain with you as you embark on your next adventures. **”**

Miss Lyndsay Watterson, Headteacher



LEARNING IN LOCKDOWN

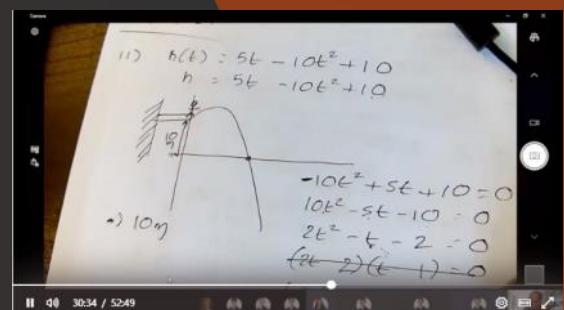
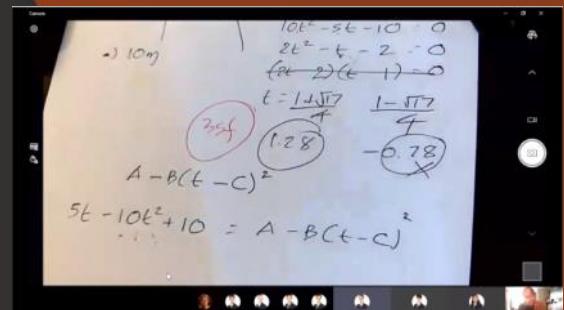
Pioneering Teaching through live lessons

Year 11 students at Queen's Park High School are set for head start to their A level studies as online live lessons with their teachers enable them to continue virtual classroom style learning.

Many students in Year 11 top set maths were devastated when their GCSE exams were cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis as they were almost ready to perform at the highest possible standard. To cope with this frustration, Mr Johnson, Teacher of Mathematics at Queen's Park suggested starting the study of A level maths early through online lessons, but even he was surprised at what a response there has been.

Since the Easter holiday, A Level maths lessons have been delivered virtually to Year 11 students when they would have had their normal timetabled maths lessons. 27 students have either been 'tuning in' live to the lessons through Microsoft Teams or watching the recordings afterwards.

Students have been able to access the textbook that they require thanks to the publisher, Pearson, updating the school's subscription to their Active Learn service. Students have already completed the first chapter on algebraic expressions, recapping some of the harder algebra from GCSE and attempted the unit test with some excellent performances, most notably Year 11 students, Beth Henderson-Palmer and Tyler Gordon. All students are now working on the second chapter, revising the quadratic formula and completing the square, before learning about the discriminant and the language and notation of functions!



“ We are hopeful that this head start will give students the opportunity to hit the top grades at A level in two years time. ”

Mr Johnson,
Teacher of mathematics

LAUNCH OF 'QP RADIO'

New state of art facility for students

Students from all years at Queen's Park High School are looking forward to a return to school in September and to a brand-new facility, the school's very own QP radio station!

Work on the facility started back in September 2019 and includes state of the art equipment, sound proofed studio and brand signage. Shows will be broadcast in school first thing in the morning, before lessons start and over lunchtimes, enabling a team of 20 presenters to host their own shows each term. The station will be managed by sixth form students who will act as station managers, technicians and producers for the shows which students from all years will be presenting.

The new facility has been installed thanks to a generous grant from the Cheshire Community Foundation. Zoe Sheppard, CEO at the Foundation said,

“We are delighted to have been able to fund an initiative that develops students' technical, presenting and management skills and provides entertainment for the whole student body. I'm sure QP Radio will be a great success. **”**

Sean Taylor, Curriculum Team Leader for the Physical and Performing Arts is very proud of the facility added,

“This support has allowed us to offer something that goes above and beyond our already broad curriculum offer. The purpose-built radio facility will provide the opportunity for students to gain real life vocational experience. Operating via a student led mentoring system, it will give students a real sense of independence and will drive forwards additional opportunities for them to have a sense of ownership and pride in not only our school, but in their educational experiences too. **”**



Gavin Matthews of local radio station Dee 106.3 was very supportive of the project and reflected on his own experiences of radio growing up, he said,

“When I was starting out as a teenager, there were no radio stations in schools, but there was hospital radio. For any would be broadcaster, getting used to being behind a microphone and feeling comfortable there, is vital – and the earlier you start, the better! It is a privileged position to be in. My most important piece of advice: although you're talking to many, you are actually talking to each person as an individual. Radio is a one to one medium, it's unique. That's why it is still so popular and has a special place in the hearts of most people. **”**

Auditions for the show DJs will be taking place in September during the first term of the academic year with the first broadcast scheduled for November 2020.



An incredible opportunity opened up earlier this term for eight students to travel to, and experience a week of life in Medellin, Colombia.

The trip was entirely funded by The British Council in a bid to promote globalisation and links between international countries.

It took 24 hours door to door (14 of which were spent flying on two planes) to get to the hotel in Medellin but it was well worth the travel.

Ruby Platt, Kelsey Griffiths (Year 10) and Angel Noble (Year 11) share their experiences of what the trip has meant to them:



Colombia

RUBY

TRIP

On Friday 14th February, we all met at the train station ready to catch our two hour train ride to London then a 14 hour flight from Heathrow airport. Our trip consisted of 8 amazing students Ruby, Kelsey, Joe, Ronnie, Adam, Ellie and Mate ranging from Year 9 to Year 11, along with two great teachers, Mr Yeoman and Mrs Skeoch who were a delight to travel with and an incredible help. When we arrived in London, Mr Yeoman walked us round the streets of the amazing city and we also got the opportunity to ride on the underground, which was highly eventful due to it being rush hour and us having to squeeze into very cramped spaces on the tube. This was a whole new experience for many of us!

Saturday morning after our long flight left us jet lagged but excited for our new experience ahead. After landing in the beautiful mountain bound city called Medellin, we were all blown away by the breath-taking landscape that surrounded us. We found the Novelty Suites Hotel and then took a trip down to the nature reserve up on the mountains of Medellin which enabled us all to endure an experience on the cable cars up to the 8000 feet high mountain tops! Whilst there was an incredible view of the city it also showed us the reality of it all, at one end of the valley where our hotel was, there were huge high-rise apartments and luxury shopping malls. At the other, shanty towns of houses built out of scraps with millions of people squeezed into a small area of land.

Whilst there, we realised that despite the lack of money these people had, they had an expression of joy on their faces, happier than those with money which just made us all realise that we take a lot for granted and that money doesn't bring happiness all the time.

One of my favourite days was the visit to Pend Rock. We had to climb 725 steps in the hot sun to reach the top but when we got there, the views of northern Colombia were amazing.



ANGEL

On most days of our visit we spent time at MaryMount School. We met some really nice girls and even took part in their lessons. It was really interesting to see how different learning is (and how similar it is) on the other side of the world! After a day at the school on a very hot day, we went straight to a village called Comuna 13. This place was once known to be one of the most dangerous places within Colombia. We were taken on a guided tour around Comuna 13, just to see how much it had changed. On the way there we met a woman who they saw as their 'hero' for how she had transformed their neighbourhood. We clapped in honour of her and took a group photo. We then walked around the area and admired the graffiti work on the walls. We were then taken up a hill on escalators; the point of the escalators being there instead of stairs was to give everybody a break and slow the rush down. We found out that if you walked up the escalators you would have been escorted off them by the security around the hill. Midway there, we were given a traditional ice lolly mango and salt. We dipped the mango lolly into the salt and waited for it to drip. It was delicious! After reaching the top we had a photography moment in which we looked out onto the view of the mountains and somebody took a picture of you. We stopped to watch a street dance performed by some really talented guys and admired the view from where we were standing. We were informed that the colour of their neighbourhood was the colour of the bricks which was brown. On our way back, we stopped to go down a slide in memory of a 7 year old boy who had been tragically killed by a stray bullet. The message of this was that life is never taken for granted and tomorrow is never promised.



KELSEY

I am so grateful to have been able to experience this once in a lifetime visit. I travelled with students who I usually would not have spoken to. The trip as a whole has changed my perspective of things and surprisingly inspired me to learn Spanish in my free time which I have never had the motivation to do before.

People often say an act of kindness goes a long way and one day on the visit really proved that point.

Visiting a school in an economically challenged area was certainly the best day in Colombia and possibly one of the best days of my life. I met so many kind and caring people who had a lasting effect on me as a person on this day. It made me realise not to take things for granted and to be thankful for what I have because although the people who attend Juan Martin school are not as privileged as I am, they were so respectful and grateful for everything they have.

During the day we were asked to stand up in front of the whole school and say what we enjoyed about being there. Speaking in front of everyone was really out of our comfort zone, however, we all gave it a go which that on its own was a big achievement! We then played football / danced and got to know everyone better and took loads of pictures. I honestly didn't want to leave, it was so great. Later that day we got in the hot tub and it decided to rain yet this didn't ruin it and we still had loads of fun.

It was a day full of opposites and reflections, but it was definitely one of my favourites. The entire trip was amazing and I would love to go back one day in the future.

Students will shortly be making a film about their experience and will be speaking about the trip on the new Queen's Park High School radio station which goes live in the new school year.

Many thanks to The British Council for providing this opportunity; an experience we hope to replicate in future years!





YEAR 5 & 6 LEARN TO CODE

Programmers of the future!

Following the success of last year's 'Learn to Code' masterclass, we were pleased to offer another group of eager coding enthusiasts from our partner primary schools the exciting opportunity to take part in a free coding workshop here at Queen's Park High School during the Spring half term.

These workshops form part of our transition programme and are offered to all Year 5 and Year 6 children from primary schools across Chester. Unsurprisingly, we had a fantastic response and the first 18 names on the list were selected to take part in the masterclass led by our in-house specialist and IT guru Mr Hodgkinson.

The budding coders were totally focussed and engaged throughout the morning. They got to grips with programming digital art and animations using python and turtle, learned how to translate colour values into code and designed a Magic 8 ball game to run on Micro:bits! By completing sets of small challenges they were able to learn the basics of code structure and formatting in two different programming languages.

Due to its popularity, we are hoping to run a repeat coding workshop in the Summer half term for those who missed out in February. As numbers are limited, if you would like to reserve a place for your child and haven't already done so, please contact Lynn Morris, email: L.morris@qphs.co.uk



“ The group mastered coding in no time at all, even the more complex elements, with some students progressing beyond the set task to create some original results! ”

Mr Hodgkinson,
Workshop leader



Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge

UK STEM COMPETITION

Multi award winning students wow judges

Earlier this term a group of four Year 7 students travelled to AstraZeneca's Macclesfield site to show off their skills in STEM through the medium of LEGO.

Since September the group have been meeting during lunchtimes on a weekly basis in order to design, build and program a robot to complete an array of tasks set as part of Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Competition.

The Lego Robotics Challenge is an annual national competition challenging Key Stage 3 students to test their STEM skills by developing their robot entry and completing a research project, both of which were centred around the theme of saving the environment.

After making good time in a linear race the team successfully guided their robot to plant a new (LEGO) tree, collect a (LEGO) scientist and express a haunting message about the environment through music and dance!

The students also exhibited excellent presentation skills by demonstrating knowledge of plastic eating fungi, earning them awards for both their research efforts and teamwork as well as winning the best robot design award!

We are thrilled for the students who were announced as the overall runners up at the end of the competition.

Well done to Ridley Breadon, Rhys Dunkerley, Dylan Ashford and Jack Astbury for their efforts, skills and achievements. We look forward to what they can bring to next year's competition!





BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Our Diverse Planet

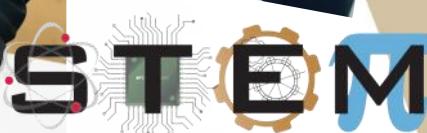
Throughout the week of the 9th March 2020 students celebrated British Science Week and completed a range of exciting activities to develop their science knowledge and investigative skills. This year's theme examined our diverse planet.

Students in Year 7 experienced life as a forensic scientist and dusted for fingerprints using aluminium powder to examine the diverse shapes contained within each others prints.

STEM club and Year 8 students learnt how to make bath bombs and were amazed by the chemical reaction of mixing baking soda and citric acid which formed salts and carbon dioxide gas. This task focussed on supporting the diversity of our planet by using less single use plastic.

The most popular activity of the week had to be creating hovercrafts from a balloon, bottle cap and CD. Students were keen to race their hovercrafts and see whose could cover the greatest distance; some of their inventions even travelled across water!

Year 9 students spent the week as research scientists and designed a science station suitable for scientific research in Antarctica. All groups presented their innovative ideas which included transportable hubs and research into penguin behaviour to the rest of their class.



DISSECTION EXTRAVAGANZA



Year 12 Marine Biologists

Over the last term, Year 12 biology students were treated to a dissection extravaganza. Students have been learning about gas exchange systems and given the challenge to find out where this happened in different living organisms. Students became marine biologists and explored the structure of the gills in fish. This involved removing the gill cover to see the gills to discover the tiny branches that allow fish to get oxygen. They later dissected a locust to find the tracheole system that carries oxygen to the cells. Students also identified the spiracles, where oxygen moves into the insect, using a microscope. From this Year 12 have developed their practical skills and are one step closer to their A level practical endorsement. Great work!



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is an annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and reading. On Thursday 5th March, students and staff at Queen's Park collectively shared a story.

For the first five minutes of each lesson, teachers read students an instalment of Neil Gaiman's short story *Click-Clack the Rattle Bag*. Originally published in the Telegraph, the story was selected for its suspenseful tone, tension, and sinister twist.



The story was spread out over the day, leaving students to ponder its creepy cliff-hanger on their way home. Following some wonderful discussions with students about what they love to read, we are working on some exciting plans to tell more stories soon. Watch this space!

Guest Author

To celebrate the theme *share a million stories* pupils from St Martin's Academy were delighted to welcome a surprise guest at their school, our very own teacher of maths and published author, Mr Johnson! Earlier that week, he had received a special request from the school to visit the pupils and read a chapter from his book, *Red Sky at Night*, which he did with pride to a captivated audience.





UK MATHS CHALLENGE

Year 9 & 10 test their problem solving skills

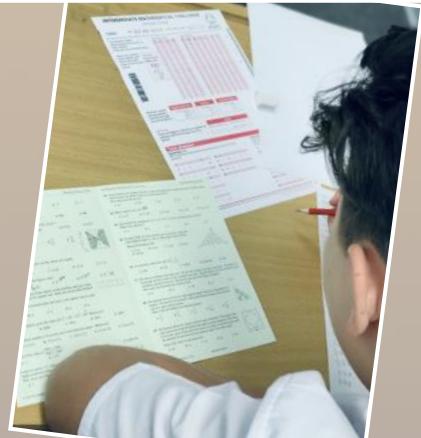
On Thursday 6th February 2020, 70 Year 9 and 10 students, joined thousands of students across the UK to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge. The Intermediate Maths Challenge is run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) and contains a variety of multiple choice problem solving questions designed to make students think and encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Once again our students performed extremely well and will be awarded with their certificates as soon as school returns to normal.

Congratulations to all our award winners which include Cari Gwenter, Daniel McDermott, Dylan Canty, Hannah Jones, James Parlevliet, Joel Coombs and Kaitlyn Price. We must give a special mention to Callum Lewis in Year 9 who will be awarded the *best in school* certificate. Well done to all these students.

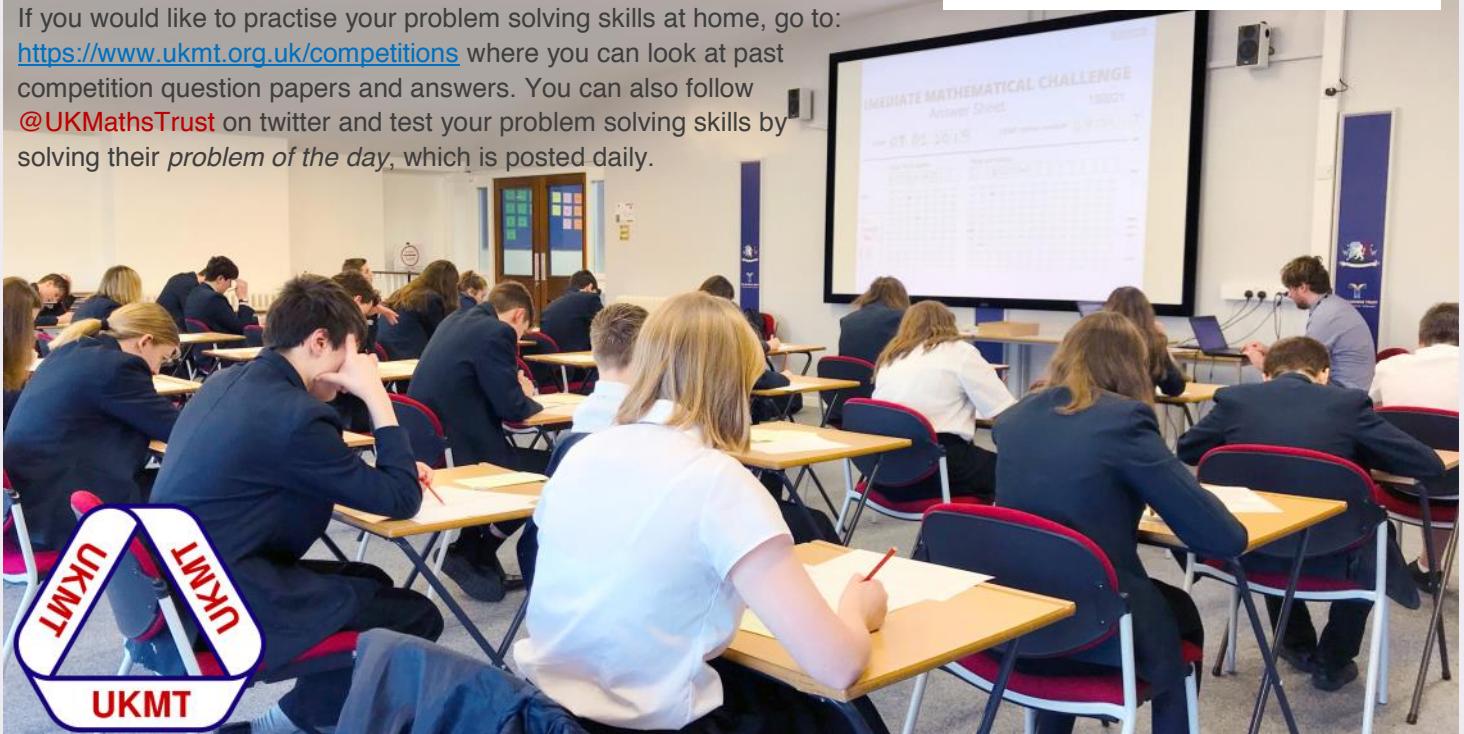
The Junior Maths Challenge is due to take place on the 30th April, if this is not possible the challenge will be postponed to a later date and will not be cancelled. We have 70 students from Year 7 and 8 entered into this competition so we do not want to miss out!

If you would like to practise your problem solving skills at home, go to: <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/competitions> where you can look at past competition question papers and answers. You can also follow **@UKMathsTrust** on twitter and test your problem solving skills by solving their *problem of the day*, which is posted daily.



Sample questions:

1. What is the value of $2 - (3 - 4) - (5 - 6 - 7)$?
A 11; B 9; C 5; D -5; E -7
2. One of these options gives the value of $17^2 + 19^2 + 23^2 + 29^2$. Which is it?
A 2004; B 2008; C 2012; D 2016; E 2020
3. As a decimal, what is the value of $\frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{11}$?
A 0.10; B 0.20; C 0.2020; D 0.202020; E 0.2̄0



MATHS MASTERCLASS

How deep really is a mile deep hole?

Following the success of the maths booster workshops, Dr Martin Bamber from the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) at the Dept. of Mathematical Sciences in the University of Liverpool and a team of trainee maths teachers from Chester University returned to Queen's Park High School to lead a problem solving session with our Year 12 A level maths students.

This is now the third year the session has run at Queen's Park which aims to support sixth form students with their A level studies.

This year we were delighted that Mr Aubrey from Chester Catholic High School was able to attend with some of his students.

The morning session involved the students working in teams, trying to find solutions to some challenging problems. After lunch Martin lead a session on mechanics, the application of mathematics to the physical world. Students had to consider how deep a mile deep hole really was, based on how long it took for a brick to reach the bottom. Another problem looked at Felix Baumgartner's record-breaking jump from space and students had to calculate how high he jumped from the given time it took.

Feedback from the students was really positive and they appreciated the opportunity to spend additional time working on maths.



MATHS HONOUR

Michael Ord Award

The Michael Ord Award for mathematics is a particularly important and meaningful memorial award presented each year to a student who has made outstanding progress in their mathematical studies.

This year's worthy recipient was Year 12 student Ioan Gwenter.

The award is presented in honour and memory of Michael Ord, a former Queen's Park High School student, who sadly passed away from meningitis in 1994 at the age of 14 years.

We were delighted that Michael's mother, Anne Ord was able to present the esteemed award this year at our Year 11 Celebration Evening.

Congratulations Ioan, keep up the great work!



MATHS INSPIRATION

How do you turn a telescope in space?

Maths Inspiration is a national programme of interactive maths lecture shows for teenagers. They give 14-17 year olds the opportunity to experience the UK's most inspiring maths speakers live in a theatre, presenting mathematics in the context of exciting, real-world applications.

On Monday 2nd March, 44 of our GCSE and A level maths students accompanied by three lucky members of staff, had the privilege of seeing this event at The Storyhouse Theatre in Chester.

Introduced by Jen Rodgers, a renowned statistician, the line up included authors, mathematicians and professors Rob Eastaway, Hugh Hunt and Ben Sparks. The audience were shown how to challenge claims made by a well-known airline, how to calculate the number of sausages eaten in the UK each day, how to turn a telescope in space and how to calculate the chance of getting the best hand in a game of poker.

The event was outstanding and everyone enjoyed it. After the show, former Queen's Park High School Deputy Headteacher, Mr Griffiths who was also attending, commented on the immaculate behaviour of our students.



“Ioan has shown amazing commitment to his studies, achieving the highest grades in GCSE mathematics and further maths. He is a thoughtful mathematician who is inquisitive and enjoys the challenge of maths problems. We are all thrilled he has been recognised for this award. **”**

Mrs Blears-Chalmers

T: 01244 81500



CHESHIRE DEBATE CHAMPIONS

First place medals for a first rate performance

We are delighted to announce a team of Year 8 students have been crowned winners of the Cheshire Debate Championship following their first ever debate competition at Upton High School.

The team of four comprising Lily Wehbeh, Oliver Womack, Alice Hutchinson and Amelie Privat, were accompanied by Mr Johnson as they headed into a series of discussion battles against students from high schools across Cheshire.

Their first opponents were Neston High School, debating the proposition that would allow parents to monitor all phone and internet use of their children. Queen's Park took the role of the opposition and Oliver opened, arguing that children need privacy and benefit from greater independence. He responded with flair and confidence to a number of *points of information (POI)*, from the proposition regarding the effect of cyber-bullying.

Alice warned about young people needing to develop their own identities without the gaze of controlling parents whilst Lily claimed it was an invasion of privacy for parents to track their children's location via their phones. Amelie summarised for the group, arguing strongly that young people absolutely need their own space.

The second and third debate were against a team of Year 9 and 10 students from Upton High School. Motions included the reintroduction of the death penalty for certain crimes and whether humanity will eventually destroy itself! There was a ferocity to the arguments, as Alice argued that Upton were deluding themselves if they didn't believe the warnings of David Attenborough on the knife edge that the planet finds itself, given the threat of climate change. With the debate over, all teams gathered to wait for the judges' verdict and overall results. Surely Queen's Park could not possibly win their first competition against more experienced and practised opponents?

After a few nervous minutes and with only two points separating the top two teams Queen's Park High School were announced as the winners and collected a trophy, medals and £30 worth of Nando's vouchers!

The team were full of thanks for their mentor Matt from Chester University, who has been coaching them every Tuesday afternoon as part of Queen's Park High School's Enrichment Programme.

GCSEPod AMBASSADORS

Students excel using on-line revision database

Introducing our GCSEPod ambassadors! We are delighted for this group of Year 11 students who have demonstrated outstanding usage of GCSEPod as part of their revision studies.

GCSEPod is a phenomenal online database which holds revision materials for almost all subjects studied at GCSE across all the exam boards.

The platform has encouraged our Key Stage 4 students to take responsibility for their own learning and enabled them to widen and develop their subject knowledge. Each week, students who are actively working on the GCSEPod platform are identified in school.

Congratulations to Ceri Raynor, Sophia Souna, Tyler Gordon, Emma Oliver, Lydia Lewis, Kiara Parlevliet, Eyefun Samsuddin, Joshua Halewood and Naomi Fielding who are the top performers in their year group, clocking up the highest pod usage!

Our ambassadors will be supporting the development of a GCSEPod programme ensuring everyone gets the most out of it, just like they have. They will also be mentoring our Year 10 students during tutor time to understand why revision is so important, how it has helped them through their Year 11 mock exams and preparing them for their (would have been) GCSE examinations this summer.

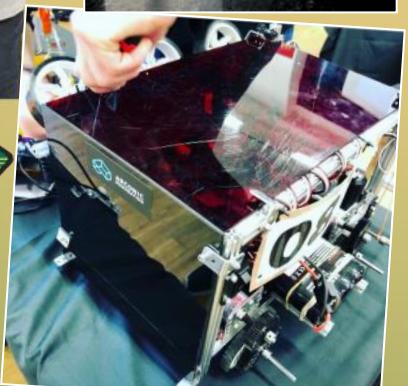
If you wish to receive more information in regards to GCSEPod or supporting your son/daughters usage of GCSEPod please email: z.oliver@qphs.co.uk





“ The quality of robotics, creativity and collaboration is what we'd expect to see at industry level; these teams have demonstrated what it takes to excel in technology and engineering. **”**

Ed Cervantes-Watson, CEO FIRSTUK



MORE THAN ROBOTS

Regional Tournament award winners

We are immensely proud of Queen's Park High School's STEM team, *The Rolling Drones* who recently competed for a spot at the UK National Championship. On Saturday 1st February, the students headed to De La Salle Academy in Liverpool to compete against teams from North West England for FIRST Tech Challenge UK's regional tournament.

After a knife-edged final robotics match, Queen's Park narrowly missed being crowned overall champions by just one point in a nail biting finish. However we are delighted for the team as they were announced the winners of two esteemed awards, the Collins Aerospace Innovate award and the Finalist Alliance award. As award winners the group will now advance to the UK National Championship in London where they will compete to represent the UK in the World Championship held in the USA, alongside 40,000 young people from 100 countries.

The team of seven comprising Year 11 students Rory Jones, Kiara Parlevliet, Beth Henderson-Palmer, James Fawcett, Tyler Gordon, Adam Thomas and Year 12 students Ioan Gwenter, Sophie Layhe, Angus Hutcheson and Alfie Clayton with support from their mentor, Mr Griffiths, have been meeting weekly for a couple of hours after school to design, build and programme a robot that will take on a global challenge.

FIRST Tech Challenge is The UK's most epic science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) enrichment programme for young people. While the programme aims to make STEM less intimidating and more inclusive, it also connects young people with industry, providing new role models and teaching vital skills. Through the programme young people work on their soft skills such as problem solving, working and collaborating with others, and building confidence and resilience.

Congratulations and good luck to the Queen's Park team in the nationals!

STUDENTS GO HEAD TO HEAD

Cambridge Schools Debating Competition

Debating is perhaps one of the most fundamental skills that anyone can learn. Cambridge Schools Debating Competition 2019-20 is one of the biggest schools debating competitions in the world for students aged 15-18 years.

Each year hundreds of talented debaters across the world compete to make it to the tournament finals at the Cambridge Union, and ultimately for the prestigious honour of being named Schools' Champion. The competition boasts excellent opportunities for young people to get to grips with speaking in public and hone their analytical skills.

Ever since Queen's Park hosted the international debate with Year 11-13 students and 50 Italian students in October last year, our students have been eager to test their newly found public speaking skills and compete in the North West regional heats. On Saturday 11th January, nine students along with Mr Johnson and Miss Whitford-Stark headed to Urmston Grammar School in Manchester to represent Queen's Park High School (the only state comprehensive school in attendance) against 43 other teams from Independent and Grammar schools.

As each school could only enter one team, ours was headed by Year 11 student Max Wilson and Year 12 student Sophie Layhe. Due to numbers we were also allowed a swing team which comprised Joe Bamber and Rory Jones (Year 11). All students debated an eclectic mix of topics that included: this house would raise the minimum wage, scrap tuition fees, only imprison violent criminals and reintroduce national service. Queen's Park made some excellent persuasive arguments for each motion.

Although our team narrowly missed qualifying for the finals due to be held in Cambridge later this year, it was a fantastic experience for them competing as young debaters.

Well done to all involved and a big thank you to Eirinn McGuire, Adam Thomas, Finley Jaworski, Harry Devlin and James Fawcett who also gave up their Saturday to support their fellow students at this event.





CAN WAR EVER BE JUSTIFIED?

Christian Controversies Conference

On Wednesday 4th March a group of Year 11, 12 and 13 students attended the Christian Controversies Conference at Chester Cathedral to look at contemporary issues from various different Christian perspectives.

The key note speaker was Professor David Clough of Chester University. He delivered a very interesting lecture entitled *Living Well in a World on Fire: The Climate Crisis and Christian Ethics*. Our Year 11 students attended two seminars on restorative justice and the church response to sexuality. They were blown away by the compassion and enthusiasm of Rev Shaun Verehy who delivered a moving workshop on restorative justice.

A small group of Year 11 and Year 13 students attended a seminar on the status of women in religion which was a real eyeopener, whilst Year 12 students joined in a workshop on the sanctity of life - abortion and euthanasia led by Rev Mike Smith.

The event was a great opportunity for students to experience university style lectures and seminars from experts in their fields. The debate at the end of the day allowed students to pose challenging questions to the panel and have them answered from various Christian perspectives. Examples included, *Has the bible encouraged sexism? Do you think that war can ever be truly justified, can it ever be righteous?* The panel answered openly and honestly reflecting their various Christian and personal stances from Conservative to Liberal. This will enhance students' ability to recognise the variety of responses with one religion and their ability to tackle A02 style evaluative exam questions.

The students remained engaged throughout the sessions, asked intelligent and relevant questions and were excellent ambassadors of Queen's Park High School.



Artist of the month

Celebrating Creativity



Congratulations to Year 10 student, Eve Ferguson who has been selected as our Artist of the Month. Eve's consistent hard work, dedication and effort in all tasks within GCSE art and design has made her the deserving candidate for this title.

Over the last term, she has completed a portfolio of work based on the topic *identity* and created a mixed media collaged portrait and an acrylic painted portrait. She has also produced some outstanding work based on the environment. Eve's sketchbook is an excellent example that illustrates her continued commitment and effort and is presented to a very high standard.

Well done Eve - keep up the great work!

ART & DESIGN STUDY TRIP

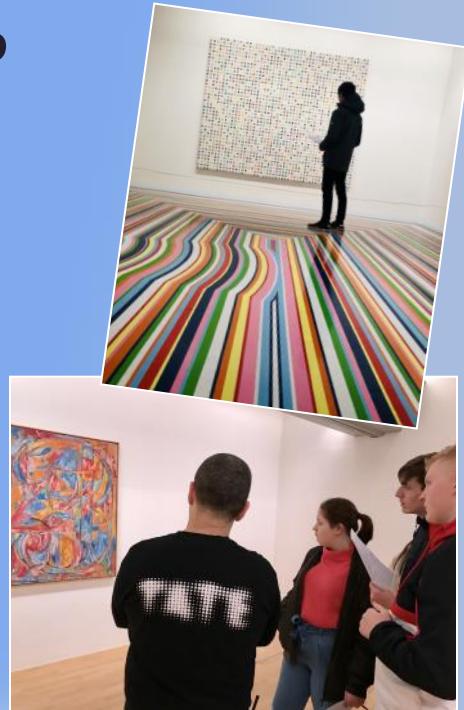
Liverpool Gallery & Museum visit

On Tuesday 3rd March, Art and Design, Photography and 3D Design students from Year 11, 12 and 13 visited Tate Liverpool to explore the national collection from the *Constellation* exhibition. Students recorded their ideas, visually and practically, drawing inspiration from the exhibits currently on display that ranged from a diverse response of both 20th and 21st Century art. Paintings, sculptures, photography and installations inspired new possibilities for students to develop ideas for their GCSE and A Level exam preparations.

After lunch students collected visual ideas from the eclectic exhibitions showcased in the Museum of Liverpool Life.

The gallery and museum visit was a great opportunity to research a range of oddities from examples of early medicine tools, army uniforms, early railway carriages to thought provoking photographs of the Liverpool Blitz.

Students will use the information from this study trip to evidence and develop their ideas in sketchbooks back at school.



CONSTELLATIONS

Specially selected from the Tate collection, *Constellations* encourages the exploration of connections between major modern and contemporary works of outstanding quality and significance by arranging them in 'constellations'. Presenting a rich and varied selection of works from the national collection over two floors of the gallery, the display offers an imaginative way of viewing and understanding artworks through how they relate to each other rather than chronological sequence.

Acting as the originating 'trigger' of each constellation is one artwork that has been chosen for its revolutionary effect on modern and contemporary art. Each of these trigger works is displayed among artworks that relate to it, and to each other, across time and location. Chosen for their similarity to, or apparent difference from or transformation of the triggering work, grouping creates interesting relationships and meaning that echo themes and concerns of the trigger work.



ABIGAIL'S PARTY



A Level Drama Examination Performance

“ They were a real credit to themselves and demonstrated a real understanding for their art. ”

Mr Yeoman, Assistant Headteacher & Teacher of Drama

On Friday 13th March Year 13 Drama students performed Mike Leigh's hilarious social satire, *Abigail's Party* in front of a visiting examiner and an invited audience.

The performance was a culmination of months of rehearsals and certainly showed just how talented the Year 13 students are.

The visiting examiner seemed very entertained too, laughing her way through their production of the show!

During the evening, the students also performed a selection of monologues and duologues from published plays as part of the examination.

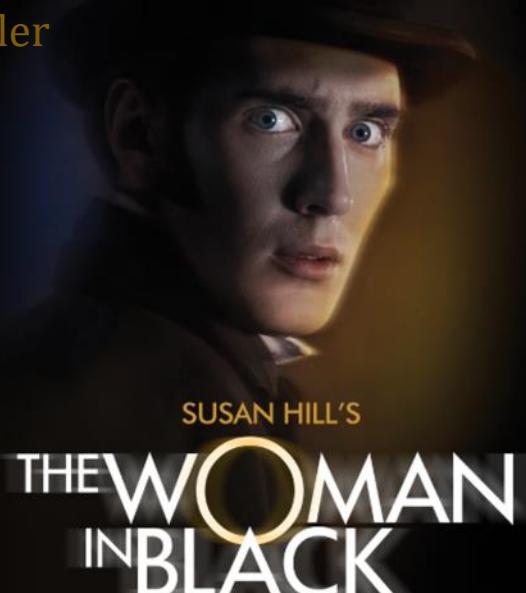
SIXTH FORM THEATRE VISIT

Students gripped by psychological thriller

On Tuesday 10th March, A level Drama students visited The Lyceum Theatre in Crewe to watch a spine tingling performance of Susan Hill's *The Woman In Black*.

The performance was incredibly tense and even caused Flo Plitt-Knowes to leap out of her chair at one incredibly scary moment!

After studying psychological dramas throughout Year 12, the play contributed to the students' already strong understanding of tension on the stage and helped them to realise the true potential of live theatre in engaging an audience.



WE WILL ROCK YOU!

School showstopping showcase!



Queen's Park High School has a fantastic history of producing high quality productions that enable our students to excel in the performing arts both on and off stage and this year was no exception!

Since October, students had been busy rehearsing for what has been one of our best sell out shows to date, *We Will Rock You*, the juke box musical based on the songs of iconic British rock band Queen and book by Ben Elton. With over 100 students involved on stage and behind the scenes, this production has been a great team effort, full of hard work and commitment throughout the past term.

As part of the preparations for the show, the main cast, band and senior crew members were given an exciting opportunity to take part in an intensive rehearsal weekend at the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

The lead roles of Galileo and Scaramouche were played by Year 13 and 11 students, Louis Frier and Ceri Raynor who are both exceptionally talented performers with ambitions to take the performing arts further as a career. With the main cast ranging in age from Year 7 to Year 13, they brought with them an array of experiences and raw talent.





We Will Rock You schools edition was performed to over 400 students and staff of local primary schools during two matinee performances as part of a seven show run over the final week of what has been an incredibly successful half term at Queen's Park High School.

“ It has been a wonderful experience working with such a large vibrant cast for the past three months. All of the students have shown great commitment to the show and have worked hard in sometimes quite challenging circumstances. Well over 100 students auditioned to be a part of this production and it was a challenge to cast as we were fortunate to have so many talented students wanting to take part. We are sure that the hard work will pay off on the night and are looking forward to seeing all of Queen’s Park talent in action. The talent of the band and crew are all testament to the development of a range of skills in the show.”

Mrs Tonon & Mrs Scanlon
Musical Directors



Following the success of our Christmas community coffee morning hosted with Chester charity ACTS in December, we invited back our local residents from Abbeyfield care home for a bespoke concert version of the show.

Our main cast performed a medley of Queen songs in front of our visitors whilst they enjoyed afternoon tea courtesy of ACTS.



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
3 to 7 February 2020

'Look Beyond'

This year's theme for National Apprenticeship Week was *Look Beyond*, specifically calling on young people to look beyond traditional routes into employment and explore the diversity of career options and industries now available to them through apprenticeships; calling on parents and teachers to look beyond old preconceptions around apprenticeships, building understanding of the true value they bring and sharing this with young people.

Many people get confused about apprenticeships, this could be because apprenticeships have been around for years but within that time they have changed a lot! During the week commencing 3rd February, Mrs Watts held assemblies to educate students about apprenticeships as a possible pathway they may want to pursue in the future.

Information about apprenticeships including a copy of the assembly power point and live apprenticeship vacancies can be found on our school website: [Apprenticeship link](#)



Earn a wage



Work for at least 30 hours per week



Study towards a job related qualification



Contract of employment including holiday pay



Real job with real responsibilities

National Careers Week 2020

During National Careers Week (NCW) students at Queen's Park High School were encouraged to think about their career aspirations, options, routes and pathways.

Students in Key Stage 3 learnt about jobs that exist now that did not 10 years ago and made predictions of jobs that may exist in the future. Space tour guide, holographic avatar designer and asteroid mining engineer were suggestions. What careers will Year 7 have in the future?

Students in Key Stage 4 learnt about local labour market information (LMI) to understand the sectors where jobs exist now and in the future. They looked at local and national trends to make informed choices linked to their career aspirations.

Information about NCW and LMI data can be found on our school website :

[National Careers Week link](#) and [Labour Market Information link](#)





National Pilot Programme

Queen's Park High School was selected for a national pilot programme led by Dr Dave Armonson and Michelle Dow from Amazing Apprenticeships. This initiative provides students with the knowledge and understanding of apprenticeships and the transferrable skills they need to be successful in the world of work.

Throughout the week 24th-28th February, all students in Year 8 took part in a series of 'hands on' workshops that had a STEM focus, as this is an area of growth in terms of job opportunities for the future.

They examined ergonomics, nanotechnology, coding and magnetic storage through a range of challenges that tested their public speaking and problem solving skills. During one of the coding sessions students learned how to decode messages using binary numbers. They were also asked to design a classroom of the future using technology to enrich the classroom experience and came up with some ingenious ideas that included customizable learning pods and next-gen desks!

Students experimented by applying various coatings from shoe polish to baby wipes onto a weighted block which they placed on a fabric slide to test which would create more or less resistance. They also discovered how to never lose at noughts and crosses! All the activities were designed to make learning fun and engaging using real life scenarios and experiences.

The work that students completed during the workshops has enabled them to achieve the Crest Award - a scheme that inspires and awards students for thinking and behaving like scientists and engineers!

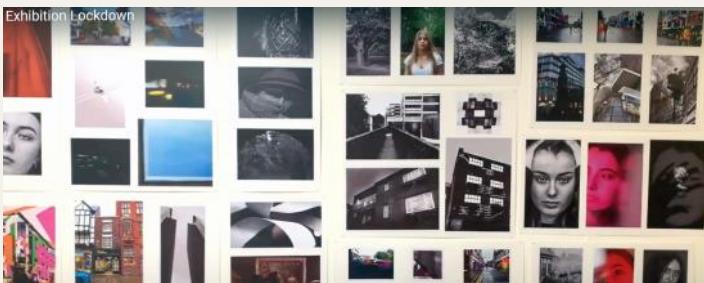
Well done Year 8!





Exhibition Lockdown 2020

This year's end of year art and design exhibition is a very different opportunity to view the wonderful work made by students throughout the year. Aptly titled *Exhibition Lockdown* this virtual exhibition showcases a selection of 3D Design, Photography and Art & Design work created by Year 11 and Year 13 students before the abrupt closure of all schools by the government due to the pandemic. To view the exhibition, please visit our website: qphs.co.uk > News & Events > Gallery > Exhibition Lockdown



“I would like to thank all of the students for their hard work, attention to detail and above all their creativity in producing the work on view. I hope the virtual experience gives some recognition of the contributions on show. It has been a real pleasure to have worked with these students over the past two years of their courses.**”**

Mr Parker, Curriculum Leader for Art & Design



What is PSHCE

PSHCE stands for Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education. At Queen's Park High School students are taught PSHCE by their group tutors, one hour per fortnight throughout the academic year.

The three core themes are *physical health & mental well-being, living in the wider world, relationships and sex education (RSE)*. For a full overview of the curriculum map please go to [PSHCE](#) on our school website or contact Mrs Watts with any enquiries a.watts@qphs.co.uk

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

'Defining futures'

At Queen's Park High School we aim to make today's young people tomorrow's era defining leaders, thinkers and pioneers so we are always keen to discover how our former students are progressing on their chosen careers paths. We are therefore thrilled to report on two of our former students, Jennifer Graham and Elizabeth Krause. Since studying physics and further maths at A level, Jennifer gained an integrated masters in physics at the University of Liverpool and is currently studying for her PhD which is jointly funded between Liverpool and the Institut Laue-Langevin, a neutron facility in Grenoble, France, where she will get to spend two years working. During her time at Liverpool, she has been part of the physics outreach group where she often gives talks to schools about different aspects of science they may not encounter in the classroom.



Liz left Queen's Park High School in 2003. She took English, Art & Design, Biology at A level and AS Geology. She gained a first Class Honours Degree in Performance Costume in 2007 at Edinburgh College of Art and since then been involved in costume design for TV and film. She currently works for costume designer Mayes Rubeo and in January was in Beverley Hills to celebrate *Jo Jo Rabbit* being awarded the *Excellence in Period Film* award from the Costume Designers Guild. It was also nominated for Best Costume at the BAFTAS and the Oscars this year!





FUNDRAISING

NEWS

Hundreds raised for local charities

Queen's Park High School raised over £450 for two local charities, the Countess of Chester Hospital and the Hospice of the Good Shepherd during the ninth annual Chester Santa Dash. On Thursday 23rd January, Kathy Kenney, Community and Events Fundraiser at the Countess of Chester Hospital and Justin Caroe fundraiser at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd were invited to Queen's Park High School to be presented with a cheque for the sum of £460, the total raised by the school for the festive fun family event.

Each year this race coincides with the launch of Queen's Park High School's car park Christmas opening times and the school welcomed the opportunity to support the event by offering designated parking to all eager dashers for just £3, with all proceeds donated to the charities.

“We were very busy with Santa Dashers in the car park and delighted to say that we raised £185 between 9am and 10am; a fantastic amount particularly as there were more road closures than usual due to Handbridge Christmas street market. **”**

Lisa Jones, QPHS PTA

This year, sixth form student and Head Boy, Dan Kefford also set up a Just Giving page hoping to add to the total raised by the school. He drummed up a team of staff and fellow peers and collected an incredible £275 in sponsorship.

Justin Caroe, said “A big thank you to Queen's Park High School for their continued support towards the Chester Santa Dash in aid of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd and the Countess Charity. We are so grateful that they allow our dashers to park in their car park and even more so that they make a donation back to the event from those participants who

used the facilities.

This was the 9th year of the Santa Dash with over 1800 participants taking part in this festive event. If you were one of those dashers and still have yet to pay in your sponsorship from the event its not too late. Every penny makes a big difference to the success of the event and the two great local charities that benefit directly from this.”

“We all had a super day, the weather was bright and sunny, if a little cold, and Chester looked wonderful with so many Santas dashing through the city streets. Thank you to all who took part, helped marshal the event and a particular thank you to Virgin Money for sponsoring the event again. **”**

Kathy Kenney,

The money raised has been split equally between the two charities.

Last term we donated a staggering 242.92kg of food to West Cheshire Food Bank and our Sixth Form Leadership Team delivered four bags of unclaimed lost property to Chester Share shop. A huge thank you for the efforts and generosity of our staff, students and their families.



Bags of generosity



CHESHIRE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



Girls go from strength to strength

As the girls' football season comes to an end it is time to reflect on their successes.

The formidable Year 7, 5 aside team were declared winners of the Chester and District tournament having battled hard in all their matches. They were now ready to progress through to the County round. Although these games proved a little more challenging, the whole team stayed strong and positive maintaining their undefeated record resulting in them being crowned Cheshire Champions, another outstanding achievement! Now in unknown territory, the team travelled to Trafford to represent Cheshire in the North West regional tournament. Success here would mean the Nationals!

The girls fought hard losing the first game by just one goal, but with an England goalkeeper to shoot against, it was almost impossible to score. Unfortunately, winning was not on the agenda this time round, but it was a fantastic experience for our team of girls.

Year 7/8, 9 aside outdoor season has also started the year well. A tie in the first round meant our girls team faced Bishop Heber High School in the quarter finals. Our convincing win of 8-0 brought us against Chester Catholic High School in the semi-finals.

Unfortunately a stronger team comprising mostly of Year 8 proved a little too much for our predominantly Year 7 team. On a soggy pitch with long grass the girls couldn't find their rhythm, but are determined to return next year bigger and stronger.

We look forward to another positive season of football next year as girls' sport goes from strength to strength.



“ This is the first occasion in my time at Queen's Park High School (15 years) that we have consistently been able to field a girls' football team. With an influx of Year 7 footballers and some help from two determined Year 8 students, it was clear from the start we were going to be a force to be reckoned with. I am so proud of the whole team. ”

Mrs Cutler, Teacher of PE



Year 7 & 8

SPORTS SUCCESS



Year 8 National Cup Competition

Following a strong performance in the previous round, winning 6-3 against Wrekin College, our Year 8 boys football team had stormed through to the quarter finals of the English Schools National Cup and now faced the formidable Skegness Grammar at home.

This competition started with 115 teams across England and Queen's Park were down to the last 8! Our boys did not disappoint and took the lead early on with a well taken penalty by Lewis Parsons. This was quickly followed with another accurately placed goal by Fletcher Pearson. The boys felt confident going in at half time with a two goal lead, however the opposing team started the second half the better side and despite some fantastic saves from Ben Barraclough in goal, they scored two goals in quick succession. This meant the game went into extra time with both teams continuing to battle for victory. In the dying minutes of extra time, Skegness took an unstoppable shot from outside the box which flew into the top corner. Despite our best effort to revive the game, we lost by one goal with the final score 3-2.

This game demonstrated the passion and determination of our Year 8 team who have been a credit to our school and to themselves. Well done boys you should be very proud!

Cheshire Athletics Champions

Back in January, our Year 8 boys represented Queen's Park High School at the Chester Indoor Athletics competition where they stormed to victory and gained first place against eight other local schools. As a result, they earned the honour of representing Chester at the Cheshire tournament, which was held at Ellesmere Port Sports Village.

This event brought together the strongest school athletics teams in Cheshire by selecting the teams who were the winners of their respective regional competitions. The Queen's Park team were confident as they took their starting position for the four by one lap relay, an event in which this year group continue to be unbeaten. There were a number of other strong performances throughout the day including the speed bounce, standing long jump, shot put, vertical jump and all track events. As the closing ceremony approached, the boys knew they were in with a fighting chance of finishing in the medals. Once the second place school was announced, the realisation hit, Queen's Park High School had won gold!

Congratulations to the boys, who are now Cheshire Champions adding another cup to our trophy cabinet!





ROWING CLUB UPDATES

This term has been a season of many of the club's regular rowing events being cancelled due to floods or high level winds, prompting them to look elsewhere for some competition. They have travelled nearby and further afield, searching for a strip of water to row on.



Head of the Lune

The Rowing Club's first trip to Lancaster to race on the beautiful River Lune provided a challenging experience for the crews as they had to set up the boats on the roadside and then negotiate a serious weir! It was an incredibly long day but we are pleased to report the teams dug deep and there were some successes.

Medal winners for the day were:

OJ16 1x: James Cox

WJ16 1x: Erin Kendall

WJ14 1x: Sienna Taylor

Op2x: Iwan Gwenter, Charlie Doyle

W4x: Olivia Halewood, Charlotte Carswell, Bethan Curtis, Megan Dixon

W2x: Gracie Twigg, Charlotte Carswell

WJ15 2x: DD Smyth, Claudia Jackson



Wycliffe Small Boats Head

Wycliffe is located down near Gloucestershire, and a very early morning start saw the club take a few senior crews to a new location to race down south in the Wycliffe Small Boats Head.

The course is a very interesting one as the crews have to lay flat a couple of times to fit under the small pedestrian bridges across the canal. The J16 coxless quad were the winners for the day, rowing an incredibly fast race and beating many of the crews who perform well nationally.

A massive congratulations to the winners, James Cox, Iestyn Burke, Dylan Howard (Year 11) and Luke Harris (Year 10).



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Awards Evening

Following the success of the inaugural awards evening last year, Queen's Park High School Rowing Club hosted its second awards dinner at the Crown Plaza Hotel to recognise the achievements of its members and contribution made to the resounding success of the club. The award categories and winners were:

Most helpful - Angie Mohan award

This newly named award is for the rower who has been nominated as the most helpful by all coaches. The rower who is receiving this award, is seen to be positive, courteous, and eager to assist without being asked.

Congratulations - [Ioan Gwenter](#)

King Crab - for the uninitiated

This award is for the best capsized across the year! It is very difficult to capsize a quad, a double - not so hard, but most rowers have capsized a single, more than once! The winner of this award had just returned from a national event, had performed well, then moved into a single, and spectacularly capsized.

Congratulations - [Lowri Jones](#)

Cox of the year

The winner of this year's award has taken coxing to a new level.

Congratulations - [Tyler Gordon](#)

Most improved

This year the club has seen a significant increase in rowing members. Currently there are over 50 members, so each coach was able to nominate who has been the most improved in their crew.

Congratulations to [Murphy Smyth](#) (Year 8), [Tom Bamber](#) (Year 9), [Erin Kendall](#) (Year 10 girls), [Sam Baker](#) (Year 10/11 boys), [Gracie Twigg](#) (senior girls), [Ioan Gwenter](#) (senior boys)

Most successful crew

This award is reflective of the last 12 months, finishing at the start of the school year and looks at the team that has been ranked the highest across national competitions.

Congratulations to the [J16 4+](#) - James Cox, Josh Williamson, Dylan Howard, Iestyn Burke and [cox](#) Tyler Gordon

Bev Chuter award for excellence

Bev was responsible in the 1960s for establishing the Rowing Club when Queen's Park High School was a boys grammar school. This award takes into consideration the rower who exemplifies all aspects of what the Rowing Club strive to be. This rower demonstrates focus, drive and support.

Congratulations - James Cox

Leadership award

This award focuses on the following qualities: *Is seen to lead the team/motivational; creates a following; appreciates others and is kind; positive and consistent in their behaviour; develops others; is passionate about Queen's Park High School Rowing Club.*

It is easy to think about being a leader as being the loudest person in the room. This year our focus is on how a leader enables others to grow and flourish through their support and guidance.

Congratulations to the winner - [Liv Halewood](#)



BRINGING HOME THE MEDALS

English Indoor Rowing Championships

It is fascinating to compete each year at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester. The Velodrome plays host to the English Indoor Rowing Championships. While there are bicycles speeding around the outside track, the inside sees rows and rows of ergos (indoor rowing machines) lined up. It's all about the fastest time or the furthest distance depending on your age. So the Rowing Club's very young rowers (from Year 5) row for 2 minutes, then the time increases up to 5 minutes for the J15 crews. Once in the J16 category, it's about distance, 2km to be exact, and how quickly that can be completed!

When rowing in teams, it's about completing 3 kilometres with a team of four rowers having to switch places throughout the race (usually after 20 strokes), so coordination plays a big part! Queen's Park had a number of successes across the day with everyone doing a fantastic job representing the school and club.

Medal winners for the day were:

- **Completing 2km: Gold** - Dylan Howard; **Bronze** - Joe Bamber
- **Furthest distance in 4 minutes: Silver** - Callum Lewis
- **J14: Gold** - James Parlevliet, Callum Lewis, Nathan Fawcett, Tom Bamber
- **WJ14: Silver** - Grace Nugent, Sienna Taylor, Ruby Wilson, Freya Cossons
- **WJ18: Silver** - Kiara Parlevliet, Gracie Twigg, Beth Henderson-Palmer (Year 11), Grace Stark (Year 12)
- **WJ18: Bronze** - Bethan Curtis, Olivia Halewood, Charlotte Carswell (Year 13), Megan Dixon (Year 12)
- **J16: Gold** - James Cox, Dylan Howard, Joe Bamber, Luke Harris

Well done to all the teams - you *smashed* it!





Boat Naming

On the day of the Pudding races Queen's Park High School Rowing Club were delighted to be able to formally name some of their new (and refurbished new) boats to their fleet.

Choosing names for boats arises through a number of different ways, through commitment and support of the club, as well as through generous donations.

Lyndsay Watterson: refurbished eight
Current headteacher at Queen's Park High School, who is incredibly supportive of the club

Tom Mohan: refurbished eight
Tom has been a volunteer coach at the club for many years and continues to take the crews out on the water every week.

Bev Chuter: new coxless quad
Thanks to a successful bid to Sport England, the club are delighted to have this new boat named after one of their founders.

Dignity: new lightweight double
Thanks to the generous donation from Christine Moir at Jigsaw foods.
A huge thank you to those who support the club through donations of both time and money, without you Queen's Park High School Rowing Club couldn't exist.
See you on a river somewhere...



NORTH WEST TIME TRIALS Junior Regional Regatta

The time trials are held every year at Northwich Rowing Club. These time trials are for crews and individuals across the North West region to compete to earn a place representing the North West at the National Junior Inter Regional Regatta (JIRR) in Peterborough in April. It is for rowers J16 and younger. The event is raced over 1km, and is usually the fastest crew for each category.

Queen's Park High School Rowing Club were delighted to have the following crews and individuals earn their place to represent the Northwest, a huge achievement!

- **J16 4x:** James Cox (Year 11), Dylan Howard (Year 11), Iestyn Burke (Year 11), Luke Harris (Year 10)
- **J14 1x:** Callum Lewis (Year 9)
- **WJ14 1x:** Grace Nugent (Year 9)

Unfortunately the JIRR have been cancelled due to COVID19, so the crews will not be able to formally represent the region at the National event.

Congratulations to each of them for earning the place to represent the North West.



LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE

World Ergo Competition

During these unprecedented times Queen's Park High School Rowing Club have been using their time in lock down to full effect by competing in the World Ergo Challenge at their respective homes. The formidable team collectively rowed a whopping 4.3million metres in four weeks earning them third place in the high school category of this world competition!

The World Ergo Challenge is an annual virtual competition for clubs and individuals worldwide. This year's competition was held from 15th March – 15th April and saw a total of 8841 competitors rowing a total distance of 1.2 billion metres. This was Queen's Park High School Rowing Club's (QPHSRC) first year competing. The outcome was highly impressive with rowers, coaches and parents alike thoroughly enjoying the challenge and keeping fit in their own homes, completing metres on rowing machines in a bid to get QPHSRC up the leader board with as many team total metres as possible.

Over the month, 48 QPHS rowers signed up for the challenge and collectively managed to complete a remarkable 4,333,462 metres. This ranked the club in an impressive third place globally at the secondary school level, a tremendous achievement the team should be proud of due to the high number of entrants this year and it being the club's debut competing in this event.

Congratulations to the top three powerhouse performers: Mark Baker (parent); James Cox and Iestyn Burke (Year 11 students) from the QPHS team, each completing over 400,000km! We must give a special mention to Year 8 rower Keir Gordon. Despite being one of the youngest members of the QPHS team, Keir managed to clock up an amazing 82,761m - a phenomenal achievement!

“ With a month of non-stop miles every day, I felt that I had really benefited from the world ergo challenge. It has given me something productive to do throughout this difficult time and improved my level of fitness.”

James Cox, Year 11



 QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL
virtual

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 17th September 2020

LIVE STREAM starting at 6.00pm

A photograph showing three students in school uniforms (dark blazers and ties) working together on a project. They are focused on a task involving several thin, clear tubes or wires. One student is smiling broadly. The background is blurred, suggesting a classroom or workshop environment.

To access the on-line link please contact:

01244 981500

E openevening@qphs.co.uk

W www.qphs.co.uk t @qphschester f @qphschester

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